



WISCONSIN AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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In cooperation with WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection



2004 Crop Production

Soybean Production Increases

Wisconsin soybean production increased in 2004 due to improved yields. Total production was 54.3 million bushels, up from 46.8 million bushels in 2003, but below the record 2002 production of 66.9 million bushels. Yields averaged 35 bushels per acre in 2004, up 7 bushels from the previous year. Acreage of soybeans planted totaled 1.60 million acres in 2004 and harvested acreage was at 1.55 million acres. Wet conditions during the last half of May and into June hampered planting of soybeans throughout the state. Many fields were still too wet to plant at the end of June. Consequently, soybeans were not planted in those fields, leading to a reduction in acres. Drier and warmer conditions in July and early August helped stimulate the crop, while timely rains in August kept the soybean plants from becoming stressed. Below normal temperatures during the later part of August slowed maturity, but warmer weather in September helped push the crop along.

Nationally, soybean production totaled 3.14 billion bushels, 28 percent higher than 2003 and the largest U.S. soybean crop in history. The average yield per acre was a record high 42.5 bushels, 8.6 bushels above the 2003 final yield.

Corn Silage Acres Increase, Production Drops

Corn planted in Wisconsin for all purposes in 2004 declined 4 percent from 2003 to 3.60 million acres. Most of the decline was in the east central area of the state because of poor planting conditions. Acres harvested for grain fell 9 percent to 2.60 million acres. Acres of corn harvested for silage in the state totaled 950,000 acres, up 8 percent from a year earlier. Poor growing conditions caused farmers to harvest more acres for silage. Decreased silage production, at 13.3 million tons, was attributed to the reduced yield of 14 tons per acre compared to 16 tons per acre the previous two years.

Grain yields in Wisconsin increased 7 bushels from 2003 to 136 bushels per acre. The decline in 2004 production to 354 million bushels was due to fewer acres harvested.

Nationally, corn for grain production totaled 11.8 billion bushels, up 17 percent from 2003. The average U.S. grain yield was 160.4 bushels per acre, up 18.2 bushels. Both production and yield were at record highs.

Dry Hay and Forage

Wisconsin alfalfa acres harvested as dry hay remained the same as the previous year at 1.60 million acres. Dry alfalfa hay averaged 2.60 tons per acre. Production of dry alfalfa hay totaled 4.16 million tons, up 13 percent from 2003.

Wisconsin producers harvested 2.45 million acres of alfalfa forage in 2004, up 50,000 acres from 2003. Alfalfa forage production includes all forms of alfalfa hay (dry hay, haylage, and greenchop) reported at a standard 13 percent moisture level (dry equivalent). The alfalfa forage yield for the 2004 haying season was 3.48 tons per acre (dry equivalent) compared with 3.2 tons per acre a year earlier.

U.S. production of dry alfalfa in 2004 totaled 75.4 million tons, down 1 percent from the 2003 total. Harvested acreage, at 21.7 million acres, decreased 8 percent. Yields averaged 3.47 tons per acre, up from 3.24 tons per acre a year earlier.

Alfalfa Seedings

During 2004, Wisconsin farmers seeded 500,000 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, a 50,000 acre decrease from 2003. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forages, or direct seedings. Seedings also declined nationwide to 2.79 million acres in 2004.

Winter Wheat Seedings

Wisconsin farmers seeded 200,000 acres of winter wheat for the 2005 crop year, a drop of 17 percent from the previous year. Nationally, winter wheat seeded for 2005 is expected to total 41.6 million acres, down 4 percent from 2004.

Tobacco

Wisconsin tobacco growers harvested 1,500 acres of tobacco during 2004, down 320 acres from the previous year. Total production in 2004 was 3.59 million pounds, down 16 percent from 2003. Yields rose to 2,390 pounds per acre this year.

U.S. tobacco production totaled 883 million pounds, 10 percent above 2003. Growers harvested 409,060 acres, down less than 1 percent. Yields averaged 2,159 pounds per acre, a jump of 207 pounds per acre from 2003.

Potatoes

Wisconsin potato growers planted 71,000 acres of fall potatoes in 2004, down 10,000 acres from the previous year. Acres harvested also decreased 10,000 to 70,000 acres. This was the lowest acreage since 1992. The state potato yield was at a record high of 435 cwt. per acre, up 25 cwt. from the previous high set in 2003.

Nationally, potato production from all four seasons totaled 456 million cwt., down less than 1 percent from 2003. Fall potato production at 410 million cwt. was unchanged for comparable states. The average yield of 401 cwt. per acres was 9 cwt. above the previous record set in 2000.

Mint

Wisconsin peppermint harvested acreage increased 400 acres from 2003 to 4,200 acres. Yields remained unchanged at 60 pounds per acre. The increase in acres led to an 11 percent hike in production to 252,000 pounds. Spearmint harvested acreage fell 300 acres to 1,000 acres. Yields dropped 15 pounds from 2003 to 50 pounds per acre. Production, at 50,000 pounds, was 41 percent below the 2003 total.

U.S. production of peppermint oil in 2004 totaled 7.15 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2003. Harvested area, at 77,700 acres, declined 2 percent. Spearmint oil production, at 1.75 million pounds for 2004, was 2 percent lower. Harvested area declined 4 percent to 15,100 acres. Average yield of 116 pounds of oil per acre rose 3 pounds. Most of the major spearmint producing states reduced acreage from 2003 to 2004. Some mint growers cited low prices as the reason for the drop in spearmint acres.

Apples

Wisconsin utilized apple production was at 55.0 million pounds, while total production was at 57.0 million pounds in 2004. Apple acres remained unchanged from the previous year, at 6,000 acres. Yields decreased 16 percent, from 11,300 pounds per acre in 2003 to 9,500 pounds per acre in 2004. Prices saw a small increase. In 2003 the price per pound was \$0.33, while the 2004 apple price was \$0.34. U.S. apple production increased 16 percent to 10.1 billion pounds.

Cranberries

Wisconsin cranberry production totaled 3.48 million barrels this year, down 4 percent from 2003. Fresh market sales accounted for 6 percent of utilization. Producers harvested 17,400 acres, unchanged from 2003. Yields were down slightly to 200 barrels per acre in 2004. This is only the third year that Wisconsin cranberry yields averaged 200 barrels per acre or higher. Wisconsin cranberry price rose an average of \$1.00 per barrel to \$34.70. Total U.S. production increased 3 percent to 6.36 million barrels. Wisconsin produced 55 percent of the U.S. crop in 2004. The average price for a barrel of cranberries in the U.S. increased 4 percent to \$34.90.

Strawberries

Wisconsin farmers harvested 41,000 hundredweight (cwt.) of strawberries in 2004., down 4,000 cwt. from the pervious year. Producers averaged 46 cwt. per acre in 2004, down from 50 cwt. per acre. While production decreased, prices were higher. Strawberry prices rose \$8 per cwt. to \$125. U.S. strawberry production totaled 22.1 million cwt., with 51,600 acres harvested in 2004.

Tart Cherries

Wisconsin tart cherry production totaled 6.70 million pounds in 2004, down from 13.3 million pounds in 2003. The yield was 3,530 pounds per acre in 2004, about half the 7,000 pound per acre yield in 2003. Prices for Wisconsin cherries were unchanged from 2003. U.S. production was down 6 percent to 213 million pounds, with yields of 5,760 pounds per acre.

CROP SUMMARY, 2002-2004											
Crop	Harvested acres (thousands)			Unit	Yield per acre			Production (thousands)			Pro- duction % change 2004/03
	2002	2003	2004		2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004	
	WISCONSIN										
Corn for grain	2,900	2,850	2,600	Bu.	135.0	129.0	136.0	391,500	367,650	353,600	-4
Corn for silage	730	880	950	Ton	16.0	16.0	14.0	11,680	14,080	13,300	-6
Soybeans for beans	1,520	1,670	1,550	Bu.	44.0	28.0	35.0	66,880	46,760	54,250	+16
Hay (all)	2,050	2,100	2,050	Ton	2.60	2.09	2.38	5,340	4,380	4,880	+11
Alfalfa	1,650	1,600	1,600	Ton	2.80	2.30	2.60	4,620	3,680	4,160	+13
All other	400	500	450	Ton	1.80	1.40	1.60	720	700	720	+3
Oats	250	230	210	Bu.	60.0	67.0	65.0	15,000	15,410	13,650	-11
Barley	35	35	30	Bu.	47.0	55.0	55.0	1,645	1,925	1,650	-14
Winter wheat	185	175	225	Bu.	61.0	69.0	56.0	11,285	12,075	12,600	+4
Spring wheat 1/	7	5	6	Bu.	33.0	45.0	42.0	231	225	252	+12
Tobacco(all)	1.5	1.8	1.5	Lb.	2,632	2,338	2,390	3,817	4,255	3,585	-16
Type 54	1.2	1.4	1.1	Lb.	2,740	2,480	2,550	3,151	3,472	2,805	-19
Type 55	0.3	0.4	0.4	Lb.	2,220	1,865	1,950	666	783	780	n.c.
Potatoes(fall)	82.0	80.0	70.0	Cwt.	375	410	435	30,750	32,800	30,450	-7
Dry edible beans 2/	7.6	5.9	4.9	Cwt.	19.70	21.00	23.10	150	124	113	-9
Peppermint	5.2	3.8	4.2	Lb.	60	60	60	312	228	252	+11
Spearmint	2.2	1.3	1.0	Lb.	60	65	50	132	85	50	-41
Apples (commercial) 3/	6.0	6.0	6.0	Lb.	9,670	11,300	9,500	58,000	68,000	57,000	-16
Tart cherries 3/	2.0	1.9	1.9	Lb.	2,000	7,000	3,530	4,000	13,300	6,700	-50
Cranberries	17.3	17.4	17.4	Bbl.	185.4	207.3	200.0	3,208	3,607	3,480	-4
Strawberries	0.9	0.9	0.9	Cwt.	48	50	46	43	45	41	-9
Maple syrup	—	—	—	Gal.	—	—	—	79	76	100	+32
	UNITED STATES										
Corn for grain	69,330	70,944	73,632	Bu.	129.3	142.2	160.4	8,966,787	10,089,222	11,807,217	+17
Corn for silage	7,122	6,583	6,103	Tons	14.4	16.3	17.6	102,293	107,378	107336	n.c.
Soybeans for beans	72,497	72,476	73,958	Bu.	38.0	33.9	42.5	2,756,147	2,453,665	3,140,996	+28
Hay (all)	63,942	63,383	61,916	Ton	2.34	2.49	2.55	149,467	157,585	157,774	n.c.
Alfalfa	22,923	23,529	21,707	Ton	3.19	3.24	3.47	73,014	76,273	75,383	-1
All other	41,019	39,854	40,209	Ton	1.86	2.04	2.05	76,453	81,312	82,391	+1
Oats	2,058	2,220	1,792	Bu.	56.4	65.0	64.7	116,002	144,383	115,935	-20
Winter wheat	29,742	36,753	34,462	Bu.	38.2	46.7	43.5	1,137,001	1,716,721	1,499,434	-13
Spring wheat 1/	13,373	13,441	13,174	Bu.	29.1	39.5	43.2	388,917	531,402	568,918	+7
Barley	4,123	4,727	4,021	Bu.	55.0	58.9	69.4	226,906	278,283	279,253	n.c.
Rye	263	319	320	Bu.	24.7	27.1	26.9	6,488	8,634	8,615	n.c.
Tobacco(all)	427.3	411.2	409.1	Lb.	2,039	1,952	2,159	871,122	802,654	883,171	+10
Potatoes(fall)	1,105.2	1,090.9	1,022.8	Cwt.	374	376	401	413,581	410,588	410,023	n.c.
Dry edible beans 2/	1,738.9	1,346.9	1,219.3	Cwt.	17.43	16.70	14.60	30,312	22,492	17,799	-21
Peppermint	78.5	79.4	77.7	Lb.	89	88	92	6,958	6,996	7,146	+2
Spearmint	18.4	15.8	15.1	Lb.	109	113	116	2,010	1,778	1,746	-2
Apples (commercial) 3/	394.8	389.0	386.5	Lb.	21,600	22,400	26,100	8,523,900	8,713,100	10,078,300	+16
Tart cherries 3/	37.7	37.0	37.0	Lb.	1,660	6,120	5,760	62,500	226,300	213,000	-6
Cranberries	39.4	39.6	39.2	Bbl.	144.4	156.4	162.3	5,689	6,193	6,361	+3
Strawberries	47.6	48.4	51.6	Cwt.	396	445	429	18,845	21,560	22,137	+3
Maple syrup	—	—	—	Gal.	—	—	—	1,475	1,260	1,507	+20

1/Spring wheat other than durum. 2/Yields in pounds. Excludes beans grown for garden seed. 3/Bearing acreage. Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.